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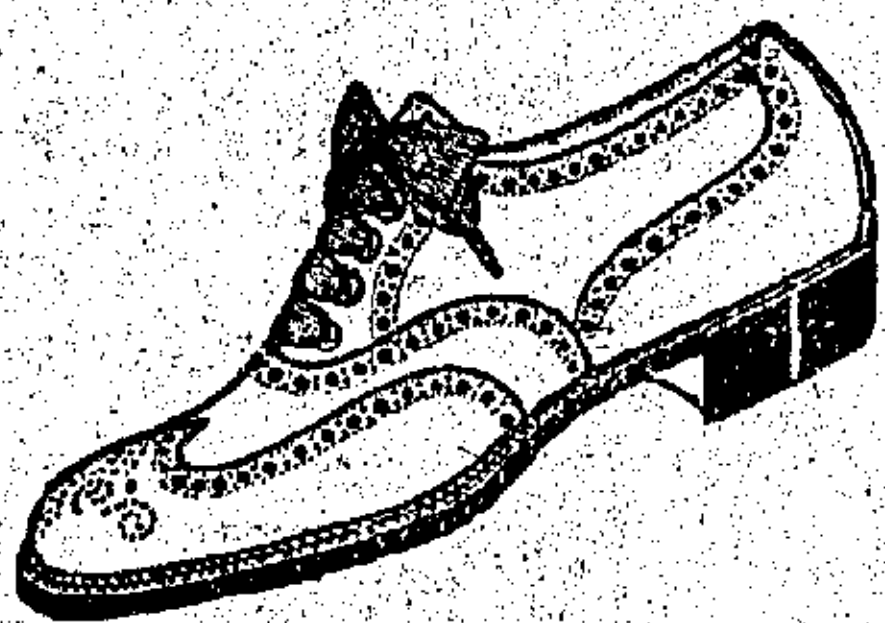
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PEKING NOTES.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

PEKING, December 15th.
Though the political situation in China has often been described as indescribable, it was never more so than at present. Every one associated with the Government, from the President downwards, seem to shirk responsibility, and no one knows what is likely to happen. Undoubtedly Feng-Kuo-chang has suffered a loss of prestige since he allowed the three Yangtze Tachuns to interfere with the Cabinet policy by coming forward with a memorial suggesting a compromise with the South; and since Tuan Chi-jui resigned the premiership there has been no one in office with a mind of his own. Coquetting with the South is not very much favoured by the military leaders of the North, who are now proving themselves absolute dictators. They have shown complete disregard for the present Government by assembling at Tientsin and deciding to make war against the South on their own account. The President's intriguing in favour of a rapprochement with the so-called rebels has met with a very unsatisfactory result. Of course, the demands presented by the South-West were not particularly suggestive of a desire for compromise. They indicated rather the reverse, and more than anything else, they have revealed the real wish of the malcontents—the establishment of the Republic of South China. Still, as long as there are agents like Wu Ting-fang and even the vacillating President himself working for reconciliation, there is always the probability of compromise bringing about the reunion of North and South. At present this probability, it must be admitted, seems rather remote, but it has to be remembered that of late no issue dividing the nation has ever been fought to a finish.

To conclude. The present Government seems to realise that it is only a temporary one, and for that reason, as well as the fact that its members are men who have little political experience or capacity, it is not at all anxious to assume responsibilities in a situation which is fraught with so much difficulty and danger to the State. It is safe to prophesy that a change must come before very long.

Tsao Ju-lin, the Minister of Communications, who resigned several days ago and retired to Tangshan, has been induced to return to his post. He is not very popular, but that seems to matter little to the President, who is evidently anxious to maintain a Cabinet of sorts to help him out of his difficulties.

CHINA AND THE WAR.

It is comforting to have the assurance of the Minister for Foreign Affairs that there has been no change of policy on the part of the present Administration with regard to the dispatch of Chinese troops to the Western front. Tuan Chi-jui's plan for sending a division to France is still being kept in mind, but as Mr. Lu Cheng-shiang explained to the French *Charge d'Affaires* the other day, conditions in the country are not at the moment favourable for carrying out the original plan.

THE WIRELESS CONTRACT.

Much discussion has taken place during the past few days respecting the contract for a wireless installation secured by a Danish firm from the Chinese Government. It was pointed out that the firm was not free from German taint, but the most potent argument against it was that it conflicted with an agreement entered into with the British Marconi firm. This week it is announced by the Ministry of Communications that the contract has been cancelled, so that British interests are protected for the moment.

CHANG HSUN.

Little has been heard of late regarding this redoubtable warrior, but rumour is busy again suggesting that he may soon find another residence. So far as I can gather, the demand of the Chinese Government for his extradition has not yet been entertained. He is regarded as a political refugee by the *Entente*, and is therefore assured of an asylum so long as he remains on foreign territory.

MOTOR-CAR REGULATIONS.

Owing to newspaper correspondence and the accident to the Portuguese Minister, who was knocked out of his ribs by an automobile driven by a lady, attention is being given to the enforcement of the motor traffic regulations. Several foreign owners of cars have been held up by the police, and the other day

(Continued at foot of next column.)

ANOTHER P. & O. PURCHASE.

Wounderland (writes *The Times* recently) that the directors of the Hain Steamship Company (Limited) have entered into a provisional agreement for the sale of the shares to the P. & O. and British India Steam Navigation Companies. The price agreed upon is believed to be £80 for each £10 share, which, as there are issued and paid up 49,957 shares, represents a total payment of nearly £4,000,000. Dealings in the shares have recently taken place at about 34. The Hain Line consists of 27 large modern cargo steamers of 103,787 tons gross, and the company has large reserve funds. The present is the second important fusion agreement into which the P. & O. Company has entered this year, for at the end of May a contract was made for a fusion with the Union Steamship Company (Limited), of New Zealand. It was then stated that, including the vessels of the latter company, those of the British India, and those of the New Zealand and Federal Companies which were acquired last year, the P. & O. fleets would consist of 300 steamers, of 1,726,475 tons. If there had been no losses in the meantime the total by the acquisition of the Hain fleet would amount to 333 vessels, of 1,835,292 tons. But it is well-known that, unfortunately, the cargo fleets of the P. & O. Companies, like those of other lines, have suffered serious losses by enemy action, and it may be presumed that the importance of replacing losses has been a main factor in influencing the company to make the present offer. The price the company proposes to pay for the fleet is large, but it is clearly vital, not only in the interests of the companies themselves, but also in those of the whole nation, that the regular services of the liner companies shall be maintained at all costs.

I noticed a well-known resident, not unknown in Hongkong, driving homewards with a policeman on the footboard of his car, an indication that he had been caught contravening the regulations by driving a car which did not exhibit a number. The worst offenders, however, are still the Chinese officials.

SKATING.

Up till this week the weather has been wintry enough, but there has been no great keenness of frost. Now, however, there are several inches of ice on the canals and sleighs are replacing junks for the winter carrying. The more venturesome have commenced skating. To-morrow the Peking Club skating rink opens for the season, followed a few days later by the International Recreation Club, which has again the largest rink in the city.

ANGLO-AMERICAN CO-OPERATION.

Long before America entered the lists against Germany there was a desire noticeable in Peking and expressed by several publicists, British and American, in favour of a working arrangement between Americans and British in this part of the world. This sentiment has been cultivated with much success, for we have seen British and American Chambers of Commerce in Shanghai agreeing upon co-operation, and this week we have had Anglo-American meetings in the Y.M.C.A. presided over by the ministers of the two countries, to rouse people to an appreciation of all that was meant by the now apparent prolongation of the war. The meetings were well attended, and the speeches were of a rousing and thoughtful character.

CHINESE LABOUR BATTALIONS.

British residents have been pleased to welcome back to Peking Captain Cotton, and Lieutenants Cooper and Finlayson, who left at the beginning of the year to join the Chinese labour battalions. They returned to look after further shipments. All of them look very fit, and they have nothing but praise for the excellent work being done by the Chinese behind the fighting lines in France. Captain Cotton and Lieut. Cooper gave interesting speeches at the Volunteer concert last night.

In this connection I may mention that Lieut. P. J. Miller, formerly of the British Legation, has received the Military Cross for work done in the trenches. He is the first of the Peking British Volunteers to be decorated.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Peking Football Club, which is international in composition, is having a very successful season. Two strings are being put. A very successful The Dancers, organised by Mrs. Reinisch, wife of the American Minister, was held this afternoon at the United States Legation in aid of Red Cross funds.

ENTERTAINMENT DUTY ON
MASONIC FESTIVAL.

In the King's Bench Division, recently, Mr. Justice Roche delivered judgment in an action in which the Crown claimed £26 4s. as entertainments duty, in respect of the annual Festival of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys. The festival consisted of a dinner and concert, and only those persons who contributed two guineas were entitled to attend.

His Lordship said that he regarded the concert as an essential part of the festival and as a part separate and distinct from the dinner. In his opinion the argument for the defendant based on the absence of a contract to provide a concert failed. The language of contract was not apt in connection with these festival arrangements, but, however the matter of contract may stand, he was clearly of opinion that if money were paid in the expectation that it would secure admission to a concert, and it did in fact secure such admission, entertainments duty was payable.

The result, therefore, proceeded his Lordship—is that, in my judgment, subsection 4 of section 1 applies, and that a lump sum of one or two guineas has in this case been paid by 962 persons as a subscription or contribution to an association consisting of the body of stewards, and that in and by means of that lump sum there is made payment for admission to an entertainment, being the concert in question. I have already, for my own purposes, in considering whether such payment is negligible, endeavoured to form and express some opinion as to the approximate amount of the payment for such admission (about 2s.). But it is the function of the Commissioners and not of myself to determine what part of the lump sum represents payment for other privileges, rights, or purposes, and what part represents the right of admission to the concert. I need only add that the number of persons chargeable with duty is in my view rightly taken at 962. I think that the right of admission to the concert whether any individual steward avails himself of his right is not for this purpose material. On this basis the Crown is in these proceedings entitled to recover the sum of £26 4s. One question only remains—that of costs.

The rule no doubt prevails in these cases that the successful party, be it Crown or defendant, receives costs, but it was suggested for the defendant that if the Crown succeeded on the lump sum point and not on the main point argued, the result would be that the sum which the Crown ought ultimately to receive and retain for its own behoof must be very much smaller than the £26 4s. to which the Crown has throughout claimed to be paid or to retain. This suggestion, I think, entitled to weight; and I think the proper order is that there should be no costs of these proceedings.

ORGANIZING THE TRADE OF
THE EMPIRE.

MR. HUGHES' SCHEME FOR AUSTRALIA.

Mr. Hughes delivered a speech upon the organization of Australian industry to the Sydney Chamber of Commerce last month. He said:—

Organized Germany in another decade would have wrested the trade supremacy of the world from unorganized Britain, and reduced Russia and Italy to economic servitude. Since the war miracles had been achieved by Great Britain by organization. It was necessary to pursue this policy to survive the economic struggle after the war. Australia receiving tons of millions from Great Britain for products which had not been delivered, was living like a spendthrift, because peace would cause credit to dry up like a shallow pool in the desert. The economic war would cause industrial upheavals, possibly financial chaos, which would vitally affect the whole Empire. The creation of an organization suited to the varied circumstances of the Empire could formulate a scheme which would naturally dovetail into those of the others. In the past we had concerned ourselves with individuals, instead of with industry as a whole; Germany did the opposite. Production was a national function and it should proceed on business lines, enlist the aid of science, receive adequate financial backing, and have the support of the whole weight of the community.

Australia should have her national organization. There should be, first, an association representing each industry; secondly, a general Council of Commerce composed of representatives of the various associations; thirdly, a Department of Trade; fourthly, a Science Bureau; and fifthly, there should be trade representatives for the principal overseas markets. The association would supervise the cost of production and indicate markets, and thus assist individuals to produce at minimum cost and dispose of their products in the best market at the highest price. Even if the cost were £250,000 a year, shared between the Commonwealth and the States, this would still be cheap. The individual could ignore his association, but he would find that contrary to his own interests. The banks would take a greater interest in providing money for development purposes, where they refuse it at present, because if the board approved, the credit of the Commonwealth would be behind the enterprise. The Science Bureau would be linked with the technical schools, colleges, and universities, which were of the highest importance, because ultimately success must depend upon the spirit and outlook of the people.—*Times*.

HONGKONG MAGISTRACY.
AN UNAUTHORISED POSTMAN.

A well-dressed young Chinese was charged with attempting to smuggle letters into the Colony.

Defendant stated that when coming from up-country to Hongkong several of his friends gave him letters for their friends in the Colony. They advised him to conceal the letters in his boots. There were twenty-five letters in all.

Mr. Dyer Ball fined defendant \$25—\$1 for each letter.

WORDS LEAD TO BLOWS.

A Chinese hawk was charged with assaulting and wounding a rich coolie. It was stated that complainant went to defendant and asked for some sweets. These were given him, but he did not pay for them. Words led to blows and defendant, opening the blade of a pen-knife, stabbed complainant in the side, though not seriously.

Mr. J. R. Wood fined defendant \$25, in default, one month's hard labour.

UNAUTHORISED ELECTRIC CONNECTIONS.

A Chinese, residing at 8, Kwong Quen Street West, pleaded guilty to connecting extra electric lights on to his meter without the permission of the Hongkong Electric Company.

Mr. G. H. M. Bannerman, assistant engineer of the Hongkong Electric Co., stated that defendant had been originally given permission to have five lights on his premises, but had exceeded the limit. The extra lights were connected in a dangerous manner, and might easily cause a serious fire.

Defendant said that he had put on the extra lights on account of a marriage feast at his residence. The work was done not by himself but by a fitter.

Mr. Dyer Ball fined defendant \$200.

"I HAVE NO NAME."

A Chinese, employed on a steamer, was charged with attempting to commit suicide by jumping into the harbour the previous evening.

Defendant, who appeared to be bordering on insanity, created considerable disturbance.

Mr. Dyer Ball—What is your name? Defendant—I have no name; not even a surname. I am sick.

Inspector Davitt said that defendant jumped off the ship evidently with the intention of committing suicide.

Mr. Dyer Ball—Can you not send him to the Hospital for some time? He needs it.

Inspector Davitt—I am under the impression that defendant is pretending to be ill. I shall, however, send him to the Hospital.

Mr. Dyer Ball bound defendant over to be of good behaviour for six months.

BANGLES SNATCHED FROM CHILDREN'S WRISTS.

A Chinese youth was charged with snatching two gold bangles, valued at \$15, from a girl, aged ten, at Wa On Lane.

The little girl said that she was ascending the staircase to get to the second floor, where she lived, when defendant, assisted by two other men, unknown, caught her hands, and snatched the pair of bangles from her wrists. She screamed, rushed down and arrested defendant.

Defendant admitted snatching the girl's wrists, but said it was another man who snatched the bangles. He assisted because he was promised some money, which he badly needed.

Mr. Dyer Ball remarked that defendant did not actually take part in the stealing. It was one of the worst forms of larceny and, as he assisted in it, he would be sentenced to six months' hard labour.

A Chinese was charged with snatching a gold bangle from the wrist of a child.

The child's mother said that she and her little daughter were making a few purchases at Wanchai market when defendant came up from behind and snatched the bangle. An alarm was raised and chase given, defendant being eventually arrested in Morrison Hill Road, near the Police Club.

Defendant stated that he was merely out for a walk when a *lukong* arrested him.

Mr. J. R. Wood sentenced defendant to six weeks' hard labour and four hours' stocks.

HONGKONG POLICE RESERVE.

ORDERS ISSUED BY MR. P. G. JENKIN, D.S.O. (RESERVE).

COMENDATIONS.

P.-c. Mow Fung is commended by the Captain Superintendent of Police for hard work and zeal in connection with a counterfeit coin case at No. 10, Lai Chi Kok Road.

P.-c. 743 Marques is commended by the Captain Superintendent of Police for alertness in effecting the arrest of a snatcher in Queen's Road Central on the 19th inst.

MURKIN, PART I.

The following will fire on Sunday, Jan. 6th:—

(1) The whole of Sections 5, 6 and 7, and such men of No. 8 Section as are detailed by Inspector Figueiredo.

(2) Chief Inspector of Armada, Inspectors Alves, Silva, Netto, C.M.S. Alves, Figueiredo, Crown-Sergts. Butts, Field, Barrator, Rozz, Castro, and C.S.M. Silva.

T. F. MORGAN

A.S.P. (R.) and Adjutant.

Hongkong, 29th Dec., 1917.

SPORT.
CRICKET NOTES.
TO-DAY'S MATCHES.

C.R.C. v. Middlesex.—At Happy Valley.
Craigengower v. University.—At Craigengower Ground.
Civil Service v. R.G.A.—At Civil Service Ground.
Royal Engineers v. Navy.—At Happy Valley.

The Chinese Recreation Club ought to have no difficulty in beating the Middlesex Regiment, especially if their batters are in form, but they must not take their opponents too lightly and must pay attention to their fielding.

Craigengower v. University ought to provide a very interesting game. With Graham and Grimmett in form the home side may quite well succeed in dismissing their opponents cheaply; but they are not a convincing batting side, and in view of the bowling of Brayshaw and Marley the odds are on the visitors. Both teams need the points, and it ought to be a very keen contest. If the Gunners but first the Civil Service will probably win, but in the event of Civil Service going in first a draw is a likely result. The Civil Service have not played a league match for a month, but during that time Dixon, with the bat, and Hamilton, with the ball, have been showing good form in friendly games.

The match at Happy Valley between the Engineers and the Navy ought to provide a very keen and interesting struggle. The Navy have only won two matches, but these have been against the leaders in the competition—Hongkong and Kowloon—and they are not a side to be despised. On the other hand, the Engineers are recognised as the most consistent service team and they have been improving with every game. If Reakes and Cripwell get going the Snappers will probably win; failing this, a draw may be expected.

The Kowloon Ground presents a strange sight these days while it is being arranged for the Fair on New Year's Day. The local team's league fixture is postponed in consequence. Another disengaged team is the Club, which one would have liked to see in the field, as the cricket season is none too long and there is a good deal of time to be made up.

CHINESE RECREATION CLUB v. MIDDLESEX REGIMENT.

The following will represent the Chinese Recreation Club in their league match against the Middlesex Regiment to-day at 2.15 p.m. on the latter's ground at Happy Valley:—Ng Sze Kwong (Capt.), Yew Man Tsun, Ng Sze Yuen, G. Lee, Un Hew Fan, H. Ching, Wong Kwok Kwong, Wei Lee San, Kwok Shiu Yan, Ho Wing Kin, and J. Wong.

CRAIGENGOWER v. UNIVERSITY.

This League fixture will be played to-day on the Craigengower Ground at 2 p.m. The home team will be composed of:—A. M. Grimmett, J. S. Graham, J. D. Noria, L. A. Rose, D. K. Kharyas, F. S. Thompson, C. E. van, G. Manley, T. Ford, M. H. Abbas, and R. Basa.

ROYAL ENGINEERS v. ROYAL NAVY.

In this league fixture to be played at Happy Valley to-day at 2.15 p.m., the Royal Engineers will be represented by:—Sergt. McGregor, L.-Cpl. Lucas, Cpl. Adams, C.Q.M.S. Reakes, Lieut. Wahl, Spr. Waller, Spr. Millard, 2nd-Cpl. Charters, S.-Sergt. Cripwell, Cpl. Heath, and Spr. Osborne.

HONGKONG RESIDENTS v. KOWLOON RESIDENTS.

This two-day match will be played on the H.K.C.C. ground on Monday and Tuesday next. Play will commence at 10 a.m. and tiffin will be served in the pavilion on both days. The following will represent Hongkong Residents:—T. E. Pearce (Capt.), W. Dixon, D. E. Donnelly, Commander Gibson, Corp. Graham, E. W. Hamilton, M. M. Maas, C. Q. M. S. Reakes, Gunner Sharmar, J. Stalker and F. Sutton.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL.

TO-DAY'S MATCHES.

UNITED SERVICES LEAGUE.
R.G.A. v. H.K.C.C.—Club Ground. Kick-off, 4 p.m. Referee, Mr. Freret.
Middlesex Regiment v. Navy.—Navv Ground. Kick-off, 4 p.m. Referee, Mr. Wright.

DIVISION II.

83rd Co. R.G.A. v. Kowloon—Club Ground. Kick-off, 2.30 p.m. Referee, Mr. McTavish.
St. Joseph's College v. 88th Co. R.G.A.—This match has been postponed owing to the inability of St. Joseph's to raise a team, due to pressure of work in anticipation of the holidays.

SUMMARY COURT.
AN INSANE DEFENDANT.

At the Summary Court, yesterday, before the Chief Justice (Sir William Rees Davies) Mr. W. B. Hind asked for the adjournment of a case in which one of the defendants was said to be a lunatic.

Mr. R. C. Faithfull opposed the application on the ground that it was the eighth adjournment that Mr. Hind had applied for. The claim was for \$200, and the defendant in question was served with the writ. When the case first came on in April Mr. Hind said that his client was not well, and ever since then he has been getting adjournments on trifling pleas. Mr. Hind produced a certificate from Dr. Harston saying that the man was a lunatic and could not appreciate the wisdom of the Court. All he could say was that he did not take a lunatic to fail to do this. (Laughter.)

The Chief Justice said that he would give Mr. Hind another week to prove that his client was a lunatic. If he failed to do so by then his Lordship would fix a day for the hearing of the suit.

INFORMATION IN ADVANCE.

In another case Mr. Mattingley said that he understood that the client of his learned friend had absconded, and he asked his Lordship to fix an early date for the hearing.

Mr. Gardiner—My friend seems to have more information than I have.

Mr. Mattingley—It is not impossible.

Mr. Gardiner—Will your Lordship order a mutual discovery of my client? (Laughter.)

MARINE COURT.

A DOUBLE OFFENCE.

Kwok Tai Shing, master of the licensed boat A.2851V, pleaded guilty to (1) unlawfully being under way in port on the night of the 27th instant without the written permission of the officer-in-charge of the examination services, and (2) carrying twelve passengers, a number in excess of that allowed by his licence.

Commander Beckwith fined defendant \$10 with the alternative of fifteen days' imprisonment with hard labour.

A REOPENED CASE.

Before Commander C. W. Beckwith, R.N., yesterday, the case of Wong Loi Fuk, the master of the steamer launch *Hop On*, was reopened.

Wong Loi Fuk was sentenced last week to one month's rigorous imprisonment for unlawfully making fast his steam launch to the s.s. *Kwai Chow*, whilst the latter was under way, without the permission of the master or officer-in-charge.

Defendant applied to be given an option of paying a fine as an alternative of the sentence that was passed.

Commander Beckwith granted the application and ordered defendant to pay a fine of \$20 or suffer one month's rigorous imprisonment.

CARNOUSTIE, KOWLOON.

This famous golf course has been transferred from Scotland to Kowloon for "Our Day" at enormous expense. The course consists of nine holes, named respectively, The Dyke, the Brae, the Burn, the Spectacles, the Cup, the Long, the Farm, the Spinney and the Mound. The course has been well set out and contains numerous bunkers for the unwary. There will be three competitions, viz., Ladies' Singles (two prizes), Mixed Fourfomes (three prizes), Running Pool (four prizes). Two clocks are provided for Clock Golf and four prizes are offered, while Colonel Bagey has offered two prizes. Competitors are requested not to play out of the bunkers, but to pick up and drop behind at the usual penalty of one stroke. Clubs will be provided on the ground, but any desiring to do so may bring their own. The clubs to be used are mashie or masher, niblick and putter.

Sandy MacNab, a very well known professional, will be in attendance and will give instruction and advice at "a fair remuneration." He will also refuse tips under \$1. Golfers desirous of seeing the course can do so by communicating with the professional, who will show them round for a consideration on Saturday, Sunday or Monday afternoon from 2.30.

VICTORIA THEATRE ATTRACTION.

To-morrow night at 9.15, the Fantastic Stars will give an entertainment at the Victoria Theatre in conjunction with the Bell Vaudeville Co. A very attractive programme has been drawn up, and a crowded house is anticipated.

BILLIARDS.

SOLDIERS' CLUB TOURNAMENT.

The "B" Company H.K.D.C. won their way into the semi-final of this competition at the Soldiers' Club on Thursday night by defeating the Royal Engineers. The final scores were:—

"B" Co. H.K.D.C. 250 R.E. 248
Mr. Gardiner 250 Cpl. Todd 248
"Parkes 250 L.-Cpl. Martin 212
"Bitchie 250 Spr. Townsend 245
"Jennings 250 C.Q.M.S. 245
"Roakes 245

Total 1,500 Total 1,296

TRADE REVIEW OF
HONGKONG.
FOR THE YEAR 1917.

The following is the first instalment of the trade review of the Colony of Hongkong for the year 1917. The remainder will be published in a subsequent issue.

PIECE GOODS.

Business throughout the year has been beset with many difficulties. In the first place, there have been the usual difficulties caused by the war to contend with, such as late deliveries, late packing, shortage of dyes, and the many restrictions which have been inevitable owing to the present state of affairs. It is with the knowledge of all that the War has given a great setback to trade generally and all branches have consequently suffered to some extent. It might be remarked *en passant* that the dye situation is gradually improving, and the present year's deliveries have shown a considerable improvement. It seems certain that when the war is over we shall not have to be dependent on Germany for our dyes. Then, again, local difficulties have had to be contended with by the piece goods merchants. In the early part of the year the buyers refused to make any purchases owing to their disagreement with the new terms of clearance decided upon by the Chamber of Commerce. Later on, however, a satisfactory settlement was arrived at, and for a couple of months business was quite good and many purchases were made and supplies laid in. We began the year with ample stocks in the godowns and had it not been for the continual rise in values the stocks would have lasted for a long time. However, in April and May, it became apparent that Hongkong was one of the cheapest places to obtain supplies of piece goods, and the consequence was that large shipments were made to Shanghai, the Straits, Indo-China and the Philippines, by reason of the fact that Hongkong stocks were on offer at advantageous prices compared with the present replacing costs. The result was that stocks after a time became actually short in Hongkong. This shortage tended to increase values on our market and brought prices more into line with replacing costs so that fair business could be done. In August, unfortunately, the political situation in South China changed for the worse, and up to the time of writing the piece goods market has been absolutely dead. Although there is a fair amount of up-country districts the general feeling of insecurity caused by Sun Yat Sen & Co., Canton, has simply held up business, and there has been practically nothing doing since then, although at the moment of writing there are signs of a slight revival.

It has not been found necessary to revert to the credit system abolished in 1915. The year 1917, we are glad to say, was continued on the cash basis which is working satisfactorily as far as piece goods are concerned. The liquidation of the German firms is absolutely at an end. All their shops are off the markets and have been practically consumed. We should say that in another year it will be possible to say that the piece goods business of the German firms, which was formerly such an important feature of Hongkong trade, has been "sunk without trace."

Manchester prices saw a continued rise without any setback worth mentioning. Wages and other costs have risen so enormously that the price of raw cotton seems to be much less an important factor than it was when the price of the finished article is considered.

It may be mentioned here that the only reason why business has been practicable was that the Exchange came to the rescue, as a sort of against the continued advance of the cotton sterling price. It is a fact to say that if it had not been for the help we have had in the rising dollar, the price of most British piece goods would have been beyond the reach of the average Chinaman's pocket.

In regard to woollens, there was a small boom in July in this branch of the trade, but it did not survive, as these goods are now on a prohibitive basis and trade is nothing to what it used to be.

SUNDRIES.

It is impossible to enumerate all the articles under this heading. For British importers here the trade has been one long series of difficulties. Japan now supplies most of the thousand and one articles formerly "made in Germany" and the United States and Great Britain supply the balance. This year has seen the Scotch and Scandinavian supplies practically cut off, and makers in the United Kingdom seem to be more and more handicapped by shortage of labour and by war work. It is unfortunate, but it must now be admitted that Great Britain has lost much ground in this direction, and it will be very difficult to make up leeway after the war. The prohibition of export from home of provisions is only one of the many incidents which will make a big hole in certain branches of business here. Not only the provision trade, but almost every sundry trade has been affected, and there are so many restrictions the wonder is that any business has been possible at all. The United States shows signs of getting into the same state of restriction as Great Britain, and Japan will have things pretty much her own way, having a great pull with her shipping. The Motor trade here, although small, has progressed steadily, and should see something of a boom once the new roads under construction are completed. Nearly all the cars and motor-cycles in use here are of American origin, but it is hoped that after the war a trade can be developed in British-made cars.

FLOUR.

Mr. W. Dunbar has supplied us with the following:—

The flour business for the year 1917 has been small compared with former years as the following figures will show:—

The imports in 1912 amounted to 5,694,654 bags
1913 " 5,176,023
1914 " 3,839,754
1915 " 3,075,033
1916 " 1,074,089
1917 " 1,072,089

This shows a reduced import of 531,544 bags for this year as against 1916. The main cause of the reduced trade is high prices—the outcome of the War, the natives being compelled to use cheaper foods. It is true that rice has also advanced but not to the same proportion as flour, and so long as the natives can get their rice they can do without their cakes. The flour trade out of Hongkong has also changed. In former years Swatow, Amoy, and Foochow were large buyers in this market, but now they are drawing their supplies from Shanghai mills, which, although very pressed for wheat, have managed to obtain a sufficient supply to keep their trade going.

At the same time many of the mills are being run on short hours. They had, however, it is to show for the year's work, even with the assistance of the Peking Government, and reduced export duty. The wheat crops of the Yangtze Valley were short this year owing to the dry season. In many places the harvests left but little return over seeds. Hundreds of the small farms showed the grain heading only a few inches above the ground. The wheat crops being early farmers were able to plant corn and in this way managed to have sufficient food to keep them for another year.

The sources of our flour supply have also changed much in the last few years. Japan coming into first place, which for the last forty years had been held by the United States. This, too, is the outcome of the war. Mills on the Pacific Coast have been shipping their output to Europe, most of it, however, being sent by rail across the continent. Australia has also sold a limited quantity here, but high freight and short tonnage have restricted business. There are large stocks of wheat in Australia, some of which are now being sent to the mills on the Pacific Coast. It was only three years ago that the Pacific Coast was shipping wheat freely to Australia to supply the shortage of flour. The following figures show where our flour supplies have come from this year:—

Japan 922,377 bags
Australia 43,632 "
Shanghai 43,230 "
America 61,000 "
Canada 11,850 "

Total 1,072,089

Owing to strong competition from Japan much of the American and Australian flour has been sold at a loss; the market, however, has not experienced much variation in price beyond that caused by the fluctuating exchange. To-day it can be safely said that flour is cheaper in Hongkong than in many of the producing countries of the world. The present stocks held here amount to about 290,000 bags, while the value of the year's imports totalled about \$5,250,000.

Most of the flour coming from Japan to Hongkong is made from wheat grown in Korea and Manchuria. The Japanese Government has made wonderful progress in improving the wheat grown in Korea, where they have experimental farms, showing great care over the management, and no doubt in time they will extend the farms to Manchuria, where there is an immense field for their enterprise, both in farming and seed. It is quite possible that in a few years we may see Manchuria producing a quality of wheat equal to Canadian.

Japan has also made great progress in flour making. They possess one of the finest mills in the world at Moji, which is grinding Korean and Manchurian wheat, and doing good work. It is a question whether they will be able to compete in the future when things become normal. This mill is a long way from the wheat fields, but it has the advantage of being close to tide water and the coal supplies. The mills in the north of Japan, however, are very much closer to their wheat and appear to be making great headway.

The year 1918 may see another change in our wheat supply. With a fair possibility of good crops the Chinese might be able to compete in this market. In 1916 we received from Shanghai 377,606 bags. So that with the return of favourable crops Shanghai would be quite able to supply this market.

OPIMUM.

As foretold in our last year's review of trade in Hongkong the opium business has practically arrived at a standstill. Except in one or two instances, no sales took place during the year, and the present slump in the opium market is expected to last right through next year, too.

KEROSENE.

Although there were no reductions in the freight rates on kerosene oil, prices have declined about 25 per cent. during the year, and consumption for the Hongkong/Canton area has increased about five million gallons.

On account of the scarcity of tin plate, the prices of packed oil have increased about 100 per cent.

A regrettable feature of the high rates has been the opportunity afforded to Japanese concerns to take advantage of the much lower rates in force between Japan and South China via Formosa to import to these areas considerable and increasing quantities of very low grade oil. This oil is often not kerosene at all, and is not so classed by the Japanese Government, who do not levy on it the internal tax. It meets, however, with considerable success in China on account of its price, but the objectionable feature is that, as it would not be readily marketable under its own name, it is usually refilled into the receptacles of established brands, and is fraudulently sold as American or Siam brand oil.

FREIGHT RATES.

During the past twelve months the amount of tonnage on the Coast has steadily decreased owing to Government requisition, and rates have in consequence

(Continued at foot of next column.)

INTIMATIONS

COMMUNITY PLATE

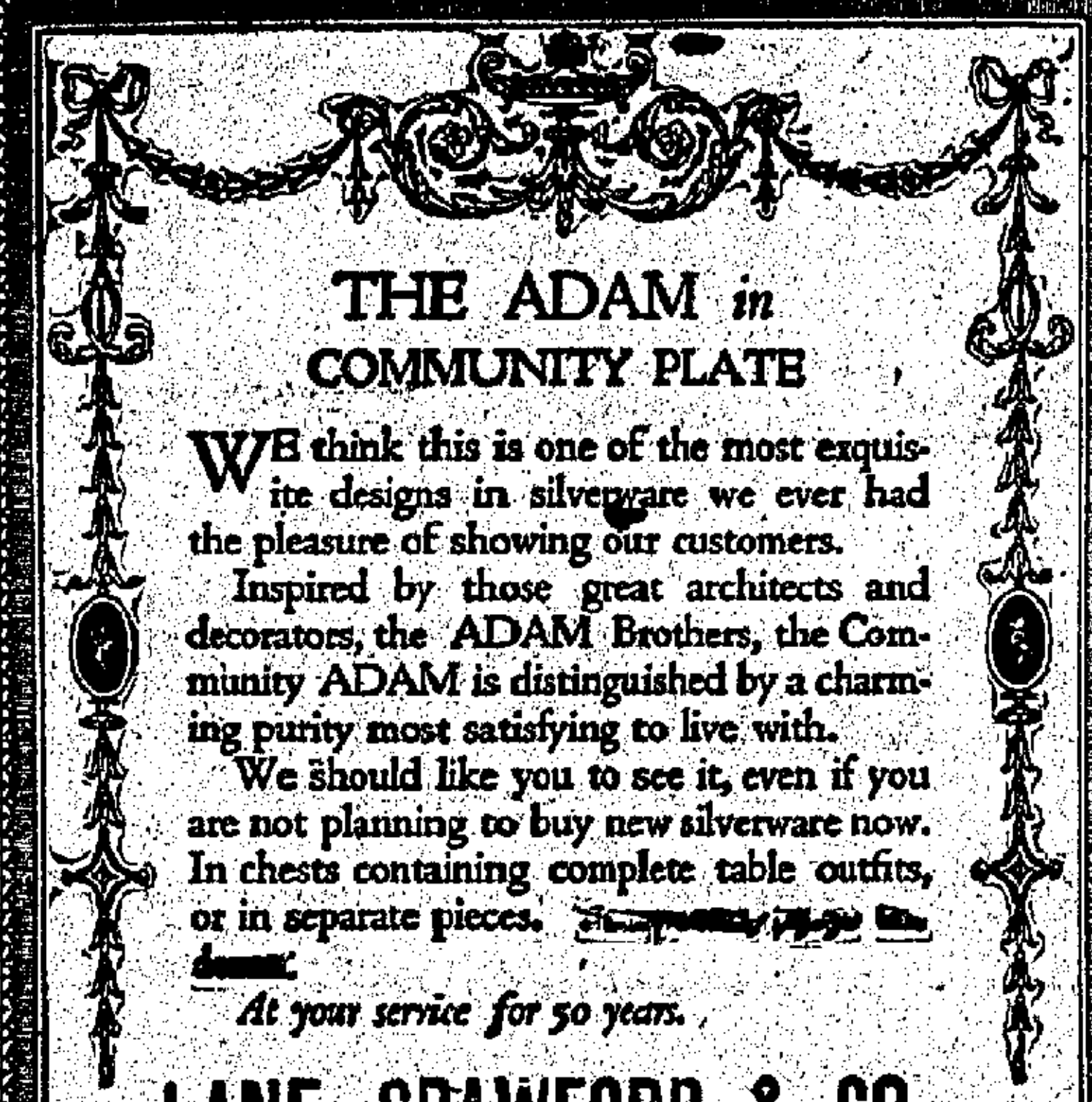
"The Aristocrat of the Dining Table"

STOCKED IN

FOUR DESIGNS AND THREE QUALITIES

GUARANTEED

50 YEARS, 25 YEARS AND 10 YEARS RESPECTIVELY.



THE ADAM in COMMUNITY PLATE

WE think this is one of the most exquisite designs in silverware we ever had the pleasure of showing our customers. Inspired by those great architects and decorators, the ADAM Brothers, the Community ADAM is distinguished by a charming purity most satisfying to live with. We should like you to see it, even if you are not planning to buy new silverware now. In chests containing complete table outfits, or in separate pieces.

At your service for 50 years.

LANE, CRAWFORD & CO., HONGKONG.



LENNOX SOAP IS PURE.

Lennox Soap contains no harmful chemicals to rot cloth fabrics.

Compare its weight and price with other Soaps.

Ask your dealer for it, or write to—

Andersen, Meyer & Co., Ltd.,
Sole Agents.
Hotel Mansions. Telephone 1990.

Wm. Powell Ltd
TELEPHONE 346

ARTISTIC FURNISHING FABRICS

CHINTZES.
CRETONNES.
CASEMENT CLOTHS.
CORDUOYS.
PLUSHES. VELOURS.
SERGES. REPPS.
TAPESTRIES.

PATTERNS GLADLY ON APPLICATION.

advanced to unprecedented figures. The following are the lowest and highest rates paid:—From Saigon to Hongkong, 50c/\$1.20 per picul; to Philippines, \$1.00/\$1.40 per picul; from Bangkok to Hongkong, Yen 2.00/Yen 1.850 per ton. Hongkong to Hongkong, \$7.00/\$10.00 per ton. Time-charter rates advanced from \$15.00 per ton deadweight in January to \$35.00 to \$37.00 in December. Practically all British-owned steamers are now either requisitioned or controlled

led by the Government. Owing to the restrictions placed by their respective authorities on the sale or charter of steamers owned by other nationalities, it is now next to impossible to obtain even neutral steamers on time charter. Tonnage will be scarcer than ever in the coming year, and rates may consequently be expected to advance to a level hitherto undreamed of unless some unforeseen change in the political situation will permit the steamers taken off returning to the China Coast.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

FIRE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION OF HONGKONG.

NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that all FIRE INSURANCE OFFICES will be CLOSED for the transaction of PUBLIC BUSINESS on MONDAY and TUESDAY, the 31st December and 1st January.

By Order,

A. R. LOWE,
Secretary.
[143]

MARINE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION OF HONGKONG.

NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that all MARINE INSURANCE OFFICES will be CLOSED for the transaction of PUBLIC BUSINESS on MONDAY and TUESDAY, the 31st December and 1st January.

By Order,

A. R. LOWE,
Secretary.
[144]

TIFFIN.

KING EDWARD HOTEL.

TO-DAY (SATURDAY), 1 P.M., MUSIC and DANCING, \$1.50.

DINNER, 7.30 P.M., MUSIC and DANCING, \$2.00.

50 cts. each to Dancing Room.
20% will be DONATED to WAR CHARITIES.

J. WITCHELL,
Manager.
[1451]

WANTED.

A PORTUGUESE CLERK for Book-keeping and General Office Work. Apply in writing to
NORDISK FJERFABRIK, LTD.,
Shanghai, Canton. [1442]

THE BRITISH INDIA STEAM NAVIGATION CO.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

FROM VANCOUVER AND SEATTLE.

TEESTA
having arrived from the above ports, Consignees of Cargo by her are hereby informed that all goods are being landed at their risk into the basements and extra basements of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Ltd., whence and/or from the Wharves delivery may be obtained.

Goods not cleared by 5.00 P.M. on 4th Jan., 1918, will be subject to rent. All broken, chafed and damaged packages are to be left in the Godowns, where they will be examined by Messrs. Goddard & Douglas, on 4th Jan., 1918, at 10 A.M.

Claims against the steamer must be presented within 10 days of arrival, otherwise they will not be recognized.

No Fire Insurance will be effected by us in any case.

Bills of Lading will be countersigned by JARDINE, MATHESON & CO., LTD., Agents.

Hongkong, 28th December, 1917. [1445]

BANK HOLIDAYS.

IN accordance with Ordinance No. 5 of 1912, the EXCHANGE BANKS will be CLOSED for the transaction of PUBLIC BUSINESS on MONDAY and TUESDAY, the 31st instant and 1st proximo.

Hongkong, 28th December, 1917. [1432]

NOTICE OF REMOVAL.

WE HAVE THIS DAY REMOVED our Office to 12, DES VEXES ROAD, CENTRAL, POWELL'S BUILDING, First Floor.

A. B. THE SWEDISH TRADING CO.,
FIL IN CHINA, LTD.
Hongkong, 28th December, 1917. [1433]

FOR SALE.

NO. 42, ROBINSON ROAD, Hongkong (7 Rooms, etc.)
Apply to—
O. PIERCY,
at the above address. [1434]

WANTED.

A PORTUGUESE Seeks Employment in a Mercantile Firm, as Assistant Bookkeeper, holding good references. Please reply to—
Care of "Daily Press" Office. [1435]

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

NOTIFICATION.

IT IS HEREBY NOTIFIED that on the 8th January, at 3 P.M., at the PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, and before a Committee presided by the Director of the Public Works, tenders will be received for the supply and laying of pipes for canalization of salt water (Extension).

The conditions of the tendering, the Specifications and the Plans of the canalization are open to the Public at the Public Works Department, and in the Portuguese Consulate in Hongkong, where they can be examined all week days.

Macao, Public Works Department, 18th December, 1917.
HAUL M. DE FARIA & MALA,
Engineer Director. [1419]

INTIMATIONS

8% MILITARY LOAN.

REDEMPTION OF DRAWN BONDS.

THE Repayment of 8% Military Bonds drawn at the Third Drawing amounting to \$1,700,000 will commence on 10th December, 1917. The Repayment will be made in SILVER.

THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE,
Peking, 26th November, 1917. [1391]

8% MILITARY LOAN.

REDEMPTION OF BONDS DRAWN AT THIRD DRAWING.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the Public that at the 3rd Drawing for Repayment of the 8 per cent. Military Loan Bonds held on 2nd October, 1917, Bonds to the value of \$1,700,000.00 have been drawn, which amount constitutes about one-fifth of the Bonds recognised by this Ministry. A List of Drawn Bonds is published in the Government Gazette, and other newspapers.

Repayment of Bonds sold in Singapore, Batavia and the Philippine Islands will be made by the Branch Offices of the HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION at these places. THE BANK OF CHINA, Shanghai, will transfer funds for Repayment of Bonds sold through the Batavia, Soe Po Sah. In Cuba, Repayment will be made by the Changsha Guild upon surrender of the Bonds to the BANK OF CHINA, Shanghai. In Yokohama by the CHINESE CONSULATE GENERAL. In Kiangai by the KIANOSI BANK. In Peking by the BANK OF CHINA. Besides the above cases, Repayment of Drawn Bonds will generally be made by the BANK OF CHINA, Shanghai.

Drawn Bonds when presented must be accompanied by all remaining Coupons, as all such Bonds are not entitled to any further interest after the payment of 11th Coupon. If all remaining Coupons (beginning with the 12th Coupon) are not presented together with the Drawn Bonds, then the total amount represented by these Coupons shall be deducted from the repayable principal.

Drawn Bonds must be presented for Repayment within five years from the date of Third Drawing, after which period of five years such Bonds shall become Null and Void.

\$1,000 each.

Nos. Tickets

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Nos. Tickets

13302-19435	01	74500-8057	544
13276-12690	122	68486-80013	572
13790-13655	01	90598-91125	526
13917-13977	01	93706-94233	528
14006-14405	01	97990-98045	1,030
14527-14587	01	100102-100229	128
14771-14831	01	103789-104223	528
15137-15197	01	104894-105338	1,050
15733-15100	368	105938-106372	530
15833-15194	12	110149-110593	521
16308-16493	122	116149-116593	530
43265-43944	350	123330-123874	526
45405-50164	700	126830-127374	526
57025-57364	360	129830-130374	526
57705-58144	360	131830-132374	526
60505-61184	360	133830-134374	526
61605-61944	360	135830-136374	526
63055-63494	360	137830-138374	526
65305-65744	360	139830-140374	526
68405-69184	700	140830-141374	526
69835-70304	360	142830-143374	526
74745-74900	8	143830-144374	526
74801-74810	8	145830-146374	526
74875-74890	26	146830-147374	526
74901-74935	35	147830-148374	526
74967-74990	104	148830-149374	526
74991-74998	18	149830-150374	526
74999-75000	14	150830-151374	526
75001-75015	15	151830-152374	526
75016-75076	61	152830-153374	526
75077-75090	14	153830-154374	526
75091-75098	8	154830-155374	526
75099-75100	2	155830-156374	526
75101-75108	8	156830-157374	526
75109-75110	2	157830-158374	526
75111-75118	8	158830-159374	526
75119-75120	2	159830-160374	526
75121-75128	8	160830-161374	526
75129-75130	2	161830-162374	526
75131-75138	8	162830-163374	526
75139-75140	2	163830-164374	526
75141-75148	8	164830-165374	526
75149-75150	2	165830-166374	526
75151-75158	8	166830-167374	526
75159-75160	2	167830-168374	526
75161-75168	8	168830-169374	526
75169-75170	2	169830-170374	526
75171-75178	8	170830-171374	526
75179-75180	2	171830-172374	526
75181-75188	8	172830-173374	526
75189-75190	2	173830-174374	526
75191-75198	8	174830-175374	526
75199-75200	2	175830-176374	526
75201-75208	8	176830-177374	526
75209-75210	2	177830-178374	526
75211-75218	8	178830-179374	526
75219-75220	2	179830-180374	526
75221-75228	8	180830-181374	526
75229-75230	2	181830-182374	526
75231-75238	8	182830-183374	526
75239-75240	2	183830-184374	526
75241-75248	8	184830-185374	526
75249-75250	2	185830-186374	526
75251-75258	8	186830-187374	526
75259-75260	2	187830-188374	526
75261-75268	8	188830-189374	526
75269-75270	2	189830-190374	526
75271-75278	8	190830-191374	526
75279-75280	2	191830-192374	526
75281-75288	8	192830-193374	526
75289-75290	2	193830-194374	526
75291-75298	8	194830-195374	526
75299-75300	2	195830-196374	526
75301-75308	8	196830-197374	526
75309-75310	2	197830-198374	526
75311-75318	8	198830-199374	526
75319-75320	2	199830-200374	526
75321-75328	8	200830-201374	526
75329-75330	2	201830-202374	526
75331-75338	8	202830-203374	526
75339-75340	2	203830-204374	526
75341-75348	8	204830-205374	526
75349-75350	2	205830-206374	526
75351-75358	8	206830-207374	526
75359-75360	2	207830-208374	526
75361-75368	8	208830-209374	526
75369-75370	2	209830-210374	526
75371-75378	8	210830-211374	526
75379-75380	2	211830-212374	526
75381-75388	8	212830-213374	526
75389-75390	2	213830-214374	526
75391-75398	8	214830-215374	526
75399-75400	2	215830-216374	526
75401-75408	8	216830-217374	526
75409-75410	2	217830-218374	526
75411-75418	8	218830-219374	526
75419-75420	2	219830-220374	526
75421-75428	8	220830-221374	526
75429-75430	2	221830-222374	526
75431-75438	8	222830-223374	526
75439-75440	2	223830-224374	526
75441-75448	8	224830-225374	526
75449-75450	2	225830-226374	526
75451-75458	8	226830-227374	526
75459-75460	2	227830-228374	526
75461-75468	8	228830-229374	526
75469-75470	2	229830-230374	526
75471-75478	8	230830-231374	526
75479-75480	2	231830-232374	526
75481-75488	8	232830-233374	526
75489-75490	2	233830-234374	526
75491-75498	8	234830-235374	526
75499-75500	2	235830-236374	526
75501-75508	8	236830-237374	526
75509-75510	2	237830-238374	526
75511-75518	8	238830-239374	526
75519-75520	2	239830-240374	526
75521-75528	8	240830-241374	526
75529-75530	2	241830-242374	526
75531-75538	8	242830-243374	526
75539-75540	2	243830-244374	526
75541-75548	8	244830-245374	526
75549-75550	2	245830-246374	526
75551-75558	8	246830-247374	526
75559-75560	2	247830-248374	526
75561-75568	8	248830-249374	526
75569-75570	2	249830-250374	526
75571-75578	8	250830-251374	526
75579-75580	2	251830-252374	526
75581-75588	8	252830-253374	526
75589-75590	2	253830-254374	526
75591-75598	8	254830-255374	526
75599-75600	2	255830-256374	526
75601-75608	8	256830-257374	526
75609-75610	2	257830-258374	526
75611-75618	8	258830-259374	526
75619-75620	2	259830-260374	526
75621-75628	8	260830-261374	526
75629-75630	2	261830-262374	526
75631-75638	8	262830-263374	526
75639-75640	2	263830-264374	526
75641-75648	8	264830-265374	526
75649-75650	2	265830-266374	526
75651-75658	8	266830-267374	526
75659-75660	2	267830-268374	526
75661-75668	8	268830-269374	526
75669-75670	2	269830-270374	526
75671-75678	8	270830-271374	526
75679-75680	2	271830-272374	526
75681-75688	8	272830-273374	526
75689-75690	2	273830-274374	526
75691-75698	8	274830-275374	526
75699-75700	2	275830-276374	526
75701-75708	8	276830-277374	526
75709-75710	2	277830-278374	526
75711-75718	8	278830-279374	526
75719-75720	2	279830-280374	526
75721-75728	8	280830-281374	526
75729-75730	2	281830-282374	526
75731-75738	8	282830-283374	526
75739-75740	2	283830-284374	526
75741-75748	8	284830-285374	526
75749-75750	2	285830-286374	526
75751-75758	8	286830-287374	526
75759-75760	2	287830-288374	526
75761-75768	8	288830-289374	526
75769-75770	2	289830-290374	526
75771-75778	8	290830-291374	526
75779-75780	2	291830-292374	526
75781-75788	8	292830-293374	526
75789-75790	2	293830-294374	526
75791-75798	8	294830-295374	526
75799-75800	2	295830-296374	526
75801-75808	8	296830-297374	526
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75819-75820	2	299830-300374	526
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75829-75830	2	301830-302374	526
75831-75838	8	302830-303374	526
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75849-75850	2	305830-306374	526
75851-75858	8	306830-307374	526
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75879-75880	2	311830-312374	526
75881-75888	8	312830-313374	526
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75891-75898	8	314830-315374	526
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75939-75940	2	323830-324374	526
75941-75948	8	324830-325374	526
75949-75950	2	325830-326374	526
75951-75958	8	326830-327374	526
75959-75960	2	327830-328374	526
75961-75968	8	328830-329374	526
75969-75970	2	329830-330374	526
75971-75978	8	330830-331374	526
75979-75980	2	331830-332374	526
75981-75988	8	332830-333374	526
75989-75990	2	333830-334374	526
75991-75998	8	334830-335374	526
75999-76000	2	335830-336374	526
76001-76008	8	336830-337374	526
76009-76010	2	337830-338374	526
76011-76018	8	338830-339374	526
76019-76020	2	339830-340374	526
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76041-76048	8	344830-345374	526
76049-76050	2	345830-346374	526
76051-76058	8	346830-347374	526
76059-76060	2	347830-348374	526
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76069-76070	2	349830-350374	526
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76079-76080	2	351830-352374	526
76081-76088	8	352830-353374	526
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76091-76098	8	354830-355374	526
76099-76100	2	355830-356374	526
76101-76108	8	356830-357374	526
76109-76110	2	357830-358374	526
76111-76118	8	358830-359374	526
76119-76120	2	359830-360374	526
76121-76128	8</		

THE WAR.

GERMANS VIOLENTLY ATTACK ON FRENCH FRONT.
DISPERSED AND SUFFER HEAVY LOSSES.

THE RUSSO-GERMAN PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.
GERMANY REQUIRES HER COLONIES.

CHINESE TROOPS DEFEAT BOLSHEVIKS.
RUSSIAN REGIMENT SURRENDERS AT HARBIN.

Franco-Belgian front.

EARLIER CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

BRITISH FRONT.

HOSTILE ARTILLERY ACTIVE.
LONDON, December 27th.
Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig states there was hostile artillery firing north-eastward of Ypres.

FRENCH FRONT.

VIOLENT GERMAN ATTACK.
PARIS, December 27th.
A communiqué states:—The artillery struggle has continued north of the Carrières Wood. It is confirmed that the German attack here yesterday was very violent.

After a powerful artillery preparation, the enemy threw two battalions into the assault, but our fire dispersed them. During the second attempt enemy elements reached our positions, but were immediately driven out.

The number of enemy corpses testifies to the heaviness of the enemy's losses.

Atlantic.

EARLIER CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

OPERATIONS IN EAST AFRICA.

LONDON, December 27th.
The *Gazette* contains a despatch from General Hoskins describing the operations in East Africa from January 20th to May 30th, which deals mainly with the great difficulties of the rainy season, which was the worst for many years, and seriously hampered the operations by interrupting communications, and caused a great increase of malaria and dysentery, necessitating the withdrawal of Europeans and South African units. It was also necessary to substitute native carriers and mechanical transport for animal transport, and also to greatly increase the medical services.

General Hoskins pays a tribute to the ready help of the Governments of India, South Africa, British East Africa, Uganda and Zanzibar, and he especially thanks the Commander-in-Chief in India for the readiness with which he met many demands. He also pays a tribute to the spirit and keenness of the troops, the work of the technical troops, Supply and Transport, Medical Services, and to the assistance of the Mercantile Marine and Navy.

He emphasises that the enemy suffered less than the British from the difficulties of the rainy season, because his whites were more acclimatised and his native soldiers were indigenous to the country. Moreover, he was operating on interior lines with veteran troops, and his power of living on the country was accentuated by the fact that while the British took and paid for only what the villagers could spare, the Germans did not scruple to take all, and after using men, women and children as porters, they sent them back starving, thus increasing the difficulties of the advancing British.

AMERICA AND THE WAR.

CONTROL OF RAILWAYS.

WASHINGTON, December 27th.
President Wilson announces that he is assuming the possession and operation of all the United States' railroads.
Mr. McAdoo has been appointed Director-General of Railroads.

Italian front.

EARLIER CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

THE AUSTRO-GERMAN ADVANCE.

ITALIAN PIERROTS ROUT AUSTRIANS.
LONDON, December 27th.

Routier's Correspondent at the Headquarters of the Italian Army, telegraphing yesterday, states:—Snow is falling heavily, making most difficult a continuance of the Austro-German advance, especially hampering them in bringing up supplies and moving big guns. The suitability of the Italian Alpine under these conditions was again demonstrated on Christmas Day, when a detachment clad in white, looking like pierrots, fell upon the Austrians, ten times outnumbered. The enemy was driven headlong down the mountain. The inventiveness and resourcefulness of the Alpine in their new method of attack is keeping the enemy in a state of perpetual unrest.

General.

EARLIER CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

THE RUSSO-GERMAN PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

DISCUSSIONS RESUMED.

AMSTERDAM, December 27th.
A telegram from Brestlitovsk announces that the representatives of Austria, Germany and Russia have resumed discussions, mainly dealing with the re-establishment of intercourse.

THE BASIS FOR PEACE.

AMSTERDAM, December 27th.
An official telegram from Brestlitovsk via Vienna says:—“The Delegates of the Central Powers declare that their Governments are of opinion that the principles of the Russian peace proposals can form the basis for peace.”

The Central Powers agree to an immediate peace on the principles of no annexations and no indemnities, and their Governments join with the Russians in condemning the continuation of the war with the sole object of conquest.

CENTRAL POWERS WILLING TO SIGN PEACE IMMEDIATELY.

The Delegates solemnly declare that they are willing to immediately sign a peace on this basis if guarantees are forthcoming that all Russia's Allies will adopt the principle of no annexations and no indemnities regarding Germany and her Allies.

LATEST CABLES.

The return of the German Colonies constitutes an essential part of the German demands, from which Germany will never desist.

EARLIER CABLES.

FRENCH SHIPPING.

LONDON, December 27th.
A French official report states:—The sinkings were one over and one under 1,600 tons.

ITALIAN SHIPPING.

LONDON, December 27th.
An Italian official report states:—The sinkings were three steamers over 1,200 tons, and one sailing vessel over and two under 100 tons. Two steamers which were torpedoed were beached.

THE ADMIRALTY CHANGES.

APPOINTMENT CREATES SURPRISE.

LONDON, December 27th.
The dramatic changes at the Admiralty recalls Sir Eric Geddes' audience of His Majesty the King on Christmas Day at Sandringham, which occasioned much speculation. The new appointment has greatly surprised all, but it is generally regarded as indicative of new developments, especially in operations against the submarine, rather than emphasising the recent misadventures in the North Sea.

The Government is expected to supplement the present bold announcement by taking the public more fully into its confidence, and further extensive changes in the Board of Admiralty and Naval War Staff are believed probable.

PRESS COMMENT.

The *Daily Telegraph* states that the decision was conveyed to Admiral Jellicoe before Christmas, and it was generally known in Naval circles. He had not been at his post at the Admiralty since the 24th instant.

Admiral Wemyss is best known by his distinguished services in the landing at and the evacuation of Gallipoli. He is a man of wide interests and unfailing good humour, with great sympathy for the younger generation in the Navy. He has been Deputy First Sea Lord for several months past.

The *Times* anticipates that greater opportunities are in store for the younger school of seamen, whose experiences of war will enable them to operate vigorously, resourcefully, and progressively. Their advent is fully in accordance with the war-time spirit and the traditions of the Navy.

Referring to the “prevalent belief” that the Admiralty lacked energy and prevision, the *Times* says the crowning justification of the present changes, which go far beyond the present announcements, is the overwhelming importance of effectively grappling with the submarines, which the younger seamen, convinced of being given a free hand, can entirely overcome. The *Daily Mail* states that recent events made inevitable Admiral Jellicoe's retirement, and Sir Eric Geddes deserves the nation's thanks for not shrinking at a painful duty.

The *Daily Chronicle* says we must content ourselves at present by hoping that those conversant with the facts have been wisely guided.

The *Daily News* advocates the creation of a Naval General Staff as the only satisfactory guarantee that can be given to the country that it is securing competent Naval administration.

The *Daily Telegraph* says time alone can demonstrate whether or not the venture is justifiable. Admiral Wemyss has the right to demand fairplay and freedom from captious criticism.

The *Daily Express* says the country looks to Admiral Wemyss to produce the necessary change of spirit and method and to make the Naval War Staff real and effective.

GERMANY'S COLONIAL WAR-AIMS.

LONDON, December 27th.

In an article entitled, “The world-political importance of German East Africa,” the *Cologne Gazette* frankly confesses that Germany has for years aimed at the creation of a German wedge dividing Africa from sea to sea. It says that, although Germany by the treaty of 1911 with France “apparently” made a final renunciation of the idea of a great Colonial Empire, she “really aimed at the creation of a Germano-Belgian economic area in the Congo Basin from the Indian Ocean to the Atlantic.” Thus, when the war commenced, Germany was “deliberately exploiting her incomparable geographical position in East Africa.”

The *Cologne Gazette* proceeds to say that this position constituted “a wedge between the English claims to sole domination in East Africa and South Africa—a dividing and immovable wedge, as long as England did not let it come to a trial of strength.”

The newspaper confesses that great difficulties confront Germany's colonial war aims. “All our wishes would be realised only if by our battles in Europe we could compel England to recognise us as an equal colonial Power and to draw the necessary consequences in a future rearrangement of Africa.”

RUSSIAN AFFAIRS.

KALEDIN'S TROOPS DEFEATED.

PETROGRAD, December 27th.

The Maximalist News Agency announces the defeat of General Kaledin's troops at Bijskerod.

HARBIN ADMINISTRATION TO BE ARRESTED.

A. Trotsky has telegraphed to Harbin ordering the arrest of the entire Administration which supported the proposal to bring foreign troops there.

BOLSHEVIKS CONCILIATING UKRAINE.

The *Times* Correspondent at Petrograd states that the Bolsheviks are endeavouring to come to terms with Ukraine, as the Commissioners are anxious to employ all their forces against Kaledin, who is regarded as being identified with the Cadets and the cause of the Bourgeoisie and pledged to the restoration of the monarchy.

THE REVOLUTION'S FATE.

M. Trotsky has telegraphed to General Krylenko stating that the dispatch of an Army against Kaledin is a question of life or death for the Revolution.

WORKERS BEING DISMISSED.

The Putiloff Works and the Petrograd Metallurgical Works, respectively employing 30,000 and 6,000, are beginning to pay off their employees.

ADVERTISEMENTS IN NEWSPAPERS.

The Commissioners recently prohibited the newspapers publishing advertisements, upon which the *Radical* newspaper *Den* inserted them gratuitously, but appears to-day with blank advertisement columns. The paper explains that the Red Guards overnight compelled the taking out of the advertisements.

FIGHTING AT IRKUTSK.

There have been two days' fighting at Irkutsk, success alternating between the Cosacks, Cadets and the Garrison.

SEIZURES BY UKRAINIANS.

The Ukrainians on the Roumanian Front seized the Staff Headquarters of the Fourth and Eighth Armies, disarmed the Maximalist units and expelled resistors. They also occupied, without resistance, the Staff Headquarters of the Eleventh Army on the South-Western Front, disarming the troops, seizing a number of guns, and 10,000 rifles.

The Ukrainians occupied the station at Brailoff and disarmed the Fourth Guards Rifle Regiment.

MARTYRDOM OF SERBIA.

Not long ago, in the Austrian Reichsrath, Dr. V. Ribar, protesting against the systematic extermination of the Serbian population, said:

“Go to the Balkans and you shall see how the former flourishing towns and villages are now but smoking ruins. From whole districts the military authorities have expelled all women and old men and children just as did the Assyrians and Babylonians the conquered peoples of ancient times. From the vicinity of Nish alone the Bulgars have carried away 30,000 persons to the deserts of Asia Minor. It is a war of extermination of the Yugoslavs.”

In the Hungarian Diet similar protest has been made by M. Zoltan Vermees, who, referring to the barbarity of the Bulgarians and their crimes against the unfortunate population of Serbia, said:

“As Commandant of a detachment, my duties called me to the mining village of Maidanpek, from which neighbourhood is obtained the pyrites necessary for the manufacture of munitions. The Monarchy needs some 130,000 tons of pyrites, of which quantity this mine alone produces 40,000 tons; its regular working, therefore, is of capital importance for the Monarchy. There are working in the mine 1,000 labourers, invalided soldiers and interned persons from the Serbian civilian population. But the mine is adjacent to the Bulgarian administrative territory, where the Bulgarians pursue with the cruellest severity bands of insurgent Serbians, whose relatives they systematically put to death; thus at Maidanpek executions are the order of the day.”

“Nobody troubles to bury the bodies of those who thus meet their fate; one after another whole villages are cleared of their friends and relatives of these unhappy people; the Bulgarians round up the people and send them off, some to the Dobrudzha, and others to Asia Minor. In this way tens of thousands of Serbs are left homeless and are obliged to stray over the country, and the richest villages fall into a state of utter wretchedness, so that the workmen in the mine are unable with any certainty to procure even the bare necessities of life. Representations had been made without result to the Bulgarian Government. It appears, indeed, that this matter is not urgent in Bulgarian eyes. Therefore the moral obligation rests with the Hungarian Government of taking the matter into its own hands and of trying to save the lives of at least a proportion of these poor people.”

CHINESE TELEGRAMS.

FIGHTING AT HARBIN.

BOISHEVIK TROOPS SURRENDER TO CHINESE AND ARE DISARMED.

[FROM OUR PEKING CORRESPONDENT.]

PEKING, December 27th.

A Russian official telegram reports that the Chinese presented an ultimatum to Rutin, chief of the Bolsheviks at Harbin, on Tuesday. Rutin accepted the ultimatum, but, whether under his orders or not, the two regiments of Reservists made preparations for resistance.

Next morning the 618th Regiment opened fire on the Chinese troops, who replied, killing Colonel Davidoff and five others.

Two civilians were wounded. After fifteen minutes' fighting the Regiment surrendered and were disarmed. The Chinese then disarmed the 559th Regiment, who did not resist.

Rutin, Selavyn, and Lutski, the three Bolshevik leaders, apparently escaped. Two thousand Bolshevik soldiers will now leave the territory. The town is excited but foreigners are safe.

PNEUMONIC PLAGUE.

Pneumonic plague is spreading. The Northern Shans have addressed appeals to Peking for help.

[BY COURTESY OF THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO"]

PRESIDENT AND PARLIAMENT.

SHANGHAI, December 28th.

The Premier visited the President yesterday to consult him upon the question of the Parliament. The President said the old Parliament was dismissed twice, and therefore it could not be restored, but he was in favour of dismissing the Senate and convening a new Parliament.

Luk Wing-ting and Tang Chi-yao wired to the Government demanding that the Northern troops be withdrawn and Parliament convened.

The Government has wired to the Szechwan troops ordering them not to attack Lochow and Chungshing.

THE QUESTION OF SENDING AN ARMY TO EUROPE.

The French *Chargé d'Affaires* visited the President to discuss the question of sending an army to Europe.

MURDERED NEUTRALS.

NORWAY'S OFFICIAL PROTEST.

The Norwegian Minister at Berlin has handed to the German Minister of Foreign Affairs a Note protesting against the German attack on the Norwegian convoy. The Note makes the following observations:—

The Norwegian Government will not again state its views, as it has already done so on several occasions, as to the violation of the principle of the freedom of the high seas incurred by the proclamation of large tracts of ocean as a war zone; and by the sinking of neutral merchant ships not carrying contraband.

It is owing to various measures of this kind that Norwegian ships, as well as those of other neutral countries, have been compelled in order to procure for Norway her essential imports, to seek protection in the past, as they will in the future, by allowing themselves to be conveyed by warships belong to Germany's enemies.

The Norwegian Government bears in mind that in a memorandum addressed to the German Government on October 20th, 1916, occasioned by the sinking of Norwegian ships in an ice-cold sea by German submarines, it called attention to the fact that the Norwegian nation considered in the light of a violation of the laws of humanity each fresh case in which the death of Norwegian sailors was caused or their lives or health exposed to danger; and on that occasion the Norwegian Government once again requested the German Government to take measures so that commanders of German submarines should not expose the lives of Norwegian sailors to danger, whether by negligence or by error of judgment. It has made a profound impression on the Norwegian people that not only have German submarines continued to sink peaceable neutral merchant ships, paying no attention to the fate of their crews, but that now even German warships have adopted the same tactics. The Norwegian Government has decided to send this note, in order to bring to the attention of the German Government the impression that these acts have made on the Norwegian people.

HONGKONG SHARE MARKET.

Messrs. Vernon & Smyth, in their weekly share report dated December 28th, 1917, state:—

Since our last report of 21st business has been much interrupted by the Christmas Holidays and we have only 24 working days to comment upon. In this limited period, business has been fairly brisk and the demand has not been confined to Indo-China Deferred, but has spread to Sugars, Wharves, and Docks. We look for a good demand after the New Year holidays. Investment stocks have scarcely been mentioned. Shanghai market for Cotton Mill shares shows a distinct improvement. Singapore market continues dull and prices have sagged to a small extent.

The following are our to-day's wired quotations:—

Alor Gajahs	\$ 4.35
Ayer Panas	11.00
Glencalys	2.45
Kedahs	4.00
Kempas	8.70
Malaka Pindus	2.75
Manakoffs	4.25
New Serendais	4.60
Sandycrofts	4.50
Tapahs	21.00

Plantation Rubber in London is quoted at 2/5. Bar Silver is quoted at 434.

Sterling T. T. is 2/11. Singapore T. T. is 197. Shanghai T. T. is nominal at about 67 1/2 and the Banks' buying rate for 3d/s Bills is nominal at about 68.

BANKS.—Sales have been made at \$590, and further shares are offering at \$600.

MARINE INSURANCES.—No sales are reported. Unions are wanted at \$735, and North Chinas at \$115. Cantons are offering at \$300. Yangtzes remain nominal at \$205 with ex. 73.

FIRE INSURANCES.—China Fires could be placed at \$122, Hongkong Fires are nominal at \$310.

SHIPPING.—Indo-China Deferred have again been the feature of this market. Business was done up to \$185 for cash and we close with this as the nominal cash quotation. Forward business was put through up to \$186 for March, but market has slackened somewhat, and at the finish there are probable buyers at \$181 for that date. Douglases are on offer at \$77. Steamboats are neglected, with shares on offer at \$18. Star Ferries are unchanged at \$28, nominal.

OUTS.—Nothing has been done. Shells are in demand at 115. Langkas are quoted nominal at \$15. 15, and Ural Caspians also nominal at 30/.

REVENUES.—A better demand has been experienced for China Sugars, at gradually improving prices. There are buyers of cash shares at \$84, and business has been put through at \$98 February, and \$100 March. Malabons have been quiet, and are to be had at \$36.

MINING.—Raubs are rather easier, with sales reported at \$2.35. Tronohs are nominal at 31/2. Railways are on offer at 40/.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have improved to a buying rate of \$125. Kowloon Wharves have been in good demand and are wanted at \$99 for cash. Forward business has been done up to \$104 March. Shanghai Docks are offering at \$15. 71.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—There is no business to report, but market is firm with Lands, Hotels and Hotels all standing at 800 buyers. Humphreys are wanted at \$5. West points are nominal at \$81.

COTTON MILLS.—The market in the North shows a further advance and we quote Ewas at \$15. 78, Kung Yiks at \$15. 16, Yangtzepecks at \$15. 70, Shanghai Cottons at \$15. 12, and Oriental \$15. 40, all buyers.

MISCELLANEOUS.—No business has been done to a small extent at \$7.40, and there are new buyers at \$7.35. Ropes have changed hands at \$28. A few China Providents have been done at \$7, and Waterboats at \$12. China Borneos are wanted at \$7. China Lights at \$3, and Dairy Farms at \$25. Electrics have buyers at \$48. Less could be placed at \$150 or rather better. Watsons are offering at \$5.60. Steel Foundries remain nominal at \$10.

AMERICAN ARMY REGULATIONS.

The neat and even elegant appearance of the American soldier isn't maintained, said War Secretary Baker in an address, “without hard work.” Yes, the work is hard, but doesn't the result more than justify it?

“On the train the other day (remarks the *Washington Star*) a private sat with his tin, unbuttoned, for the temperature was high. A sergeant strode up to him and said:—

“Button up that tunic! Did you never hear of by-law 217, sub-section 1? I'm Sergeant Jabez Winterbottom!”

“A gentleman in the seat behind tapped the sergeant sternly on the shoulder.

“How dare you issue orders with a pipe in your mouth? he asked. ‘Go home and read paragraph 174, section M, part 1X.’”

“Here a gentleman with a drooping white moustache, interposed from the other side of the aisle, and said coldly:—

“Observe the law 31 of section K. He will learn that to reprimand a sergeant in the presence of a private is an offence not lightly to be overlooked.”

CHELTENHAM,
ENGLAND.

THE AMERICANS IN FRANCE ORGANIZATION AND TRAINING.

[By "THE TIMES" MILITARY CORRESPONDENT.]

H.Q. A.E.F., FRANCE.

During the last few days I have been privileged to live among the men who have been the first to come to France to uphold the honour of the Star-Spangled Banner and to make good the President's words by their deeds. I have talked with most of their chief officers, have been allowed to study their nascent organization, and to visit the troops, their huts, billets, and training camps. If I cannot say all that might be said about their numbers, state of preparedness, and intentions, I shall endeavour to convey my general impressions of the mighty new force which has come upon the scene, and to express that sincere appreciation of it which every visitor must very deeply feel.

Englishmen who have studied the American Army before the war have understood that it bore a strong resemblance to ours in pre-Cardwell days; that it was the armed police of an essentially pacific people; that it was starved for men and material; that it was scattered in detachments in distant garrisons; that it was not a modern Army in any sense except in its spirit, and in the excellence and the stern discipline of the West Point training; and that even the General Staff, that mainstay of success in war, had been relegated to a position inferior to its deserts. All the struggles which our soldiers have been through, almost measure for measure, but just as it required this World War to bring home to the minds of our people that right without might was unsafe in a still imperfect world, so it has needed this peripatetic aggression and these insane barbarities of Germany to convince the citizens of the United States that they must in defence of principles which they have deeply at heart, turn their ploughshares into swords for a while.

I admit that the key of the situation, so far as the American Expeditionary Force is concerned, remains in Washington. The vast and extremely complicated problem of organizing, transporting, and maintaining armies adequate to represent America honourably in the war must be solved at Washington and cannot be solved anywhere else. The American army, gathering here, and the expression of far-sightedness of Washington to work out one of the most arduous staff exercises ever set to a military administration, and upon the competence or otherwise of the President and his advisers, to foresee and provide for all contingencies must depend the success of this astounding American adventure.

It is a cause of disquiet to some people that, owing to President Wilson's almost autocratic powers, and the leading rôle which he plays in these great events, one false note struck by him may fatally injure the cause. But as against this fear there stands the fact, admitted even by the President's political opponents, that not only in all that he has said and done since he took his great decision, but also in all that he has not said and has not done, he has at present not made one single mistake. There is consequently complete confidence in his supreme direction and control.

I have to make this last reservation because people are too busy here to follow in all their details the preparations in America. But we know that the necessary men are at the President's disposal, that all the youth and strength and energy of America are being enlisted for the war; that the arrangements for providing munitions and equipments are well forward, and as each new division lands in France we see not only evidence but proof that the machine at home works well. The President's practice of sending men here to gain experience by harsh contact with practical realities, and then of calling them back to advise him, is an excellent system, and might even be further extended with advantage.

To understand the difficulties of Washington we must, for example, comprehend the transport problem. We must know how many tons gross are needed, first for the transport, and then for the maintenance of every American soldier; how long the circular tour of the transport takes; how much of this time is occupied by embarking and disembarking, and how much by steaming in convoy or otherwise; and there enters into this calculation the question of draughts of vessels and of ports, as well as that of railway or other communications with the troops at the front. A margin to provide against losses at sea is also one of the necessities of the situation.

ORGANIZATION

There have been no great American Armies in the field since the Civil War, and that was quite a long time ago. Consequently General Pershing and his staff have been almost exclusively occupied, since they landed in June last, in creating the organization for the Armies now in course of arriving. It has been a stupendous task, greater, I think, than any American soldier realized before he arrived here. The whole of the Headquarters Staff, and the whole great administrative services at the front and on the lines of communication, have had to be devised, and then created, and manned.

We have built up the magnificent organization of our British Armies from small beginnings, and after a long lapse of time. The organization of the ports, railways, lines of communication, rest camps, depôts, magazines, hospitals, repair establishments, artillery repair shops, billets, wash-houses, and a score of other services has been evolved by a long process of painful experience. This experience, and that of our French Allies, are placed freely at the disposal of

the American Staff, but as Army like that of the United States coming fresh to this gigantic problem must be applied at its magnitude and complexity, and must be given full time to master it. The American Army is not in its own country. It is here, in everything connected with the French territory, and even railways, to act through the French mission to it, and through French civil administration. American ways are not the ways of other people, and it has required good will on both sides to overcome all the formidable difficulties which have constantly presented themselves. All these difficulties are being overcome by the natural good sense of both sides, and, though the time taken to complete the organization appears long to ardent spirits, I am convinced that the Americans are working on the right lines, and that it is merely a question of time for the organization to be completed.

It is the same with the troops, who are distributed in huts and billets in localities suitable for training, each division by itself. The divisional commander is able to gain a grip upon his men, to know all his chief officers, and to supervise the training, which is in general charge of the French, so far as the battalion and the battery work is concerned, in case any help is needed. American officers and men attend both French schools and ours, and every assistance needed is freely rendered. The progress of all arms is remarkable. All ranks display in serious spirit and show the greatest keenness. The officers of the old Regular Army are a distinguished body of men, thoroughly professional, highly educated, and most modest and anxious to learn all the new methods of war which this campaign has produced. The case of the American colonel who refused to be a mere spectator at one of our bombing schools, and went through the whole course in the guise of a private under a British sergeant-instructor, is in my mind typical of the manner in which American officers approach their task. The troops are a fine, virile, upstanding body of men, nearest perhaps to the Australians in type, but with a very distinct individuality of their own. The discipline is excellent so far as can be judged from externals, and I shall be almost sorry for the Boches when these little active Americans run up against them.

The American Expeditionary Force is completely self-supporting, and draws nothing from France except air, water, fresh vegetables, and eggs. The soldiers eat the best white bread that I have tasted for many months, and all the flour comes from America, as does the frozen meat and everything else in the way of supplies, including the iron ration of bacon and biscuit, and even milk. The Americans do not therefore impose any very severe strain upon the food supplies of the nation whose guests they are, and, moreover, they are bringing over locomotives, carriages, trucks, and railway plant to increase the possibilities of railway traffic on the French lines.

The relations between the Americans and their French hosts are excellent. There have been difficulties to be overcome, naturally, and things move more slowly than is pleasing to every one, but by the exercise of tact and discretion on both sides the ways are being smoothed, and the troops and staffs are settling down to the long preliminary work necessary to fit units for the specialized warfare of to-day. In a thousand ways the French prove excellent guides and invaluable helpers. They are employed for the hundred thousand in creating huts for the troops, so that the Americans may be comfortably housed during their first winter in France. They are busy manufacturing an important part of the American artillery, and in training the new arrivals to use these guns. They help in training specialists, especially in the infantry, and, in short, they place themselves completely at American disposal while their guests are in what the latter themselves describe as a "formative" stage.

ENGLAND AND AMERICA

Our rôle in helping the Americans to perfect their organization and training is much more restricted, but still it is important. Our practice is to place everything that we have unreservedly at American disposal, and to throw all doors widely open to them. Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig is excellently well represented at General Pershing's Headquarters by a good, sound, practical officer. The wonderful organization, spirit, and efficiency of our Armies come as a complete revelation to most American soldiers. Americans of all grades have visited our Armies, have studied and have adopted much of our organization, have been present at our operations, large and small, and have many of them undergone the training in our schools for specialists. Some of our specialists, by request, help to found the American schools on sure bases. We have not forced ourselves in any way upon the Americans. We wait for them to come to us. They have just come to us at their good will and pleasure, without any false pride, and the unbreakable link of a common language, common ideals, and a common outlook upon life has enabled them to understand us rapidly. What they find good in our system they accept and adopt, and what they find bad they reject.

In France, we have suddenly discovered America, and America has discovered us. How different we both are from our preconceived notions of each other! We did not know what a highly educated, professional, and modest gentleman the American regular officer was, nor did we quite realize what a splendid body of active fighting men he was going to bring over with him. We are a great deal more enthusiastic about the Americans, and, if I may say so, more proud of them than we show on the surface. How can we not regard as men of our own flesh and blood the brave and capable soldiers of all grades who come to us, who speak our own language and bear our own names, who understand us in

(Continued at foot of next column.)

GERMAN ATTEMPT TO DIVIDE THE ALLIES.

A "LASTING PEACE" OFFER TO BELGIUM.

La Métropole, the Belgian newspaper published in London, learns from a well-informed source that semi-official proposals were recently made by Germany to Belgium in view of the conclusion of a "lasting peace." The hearer of these proposals was a well-known Belgian industrial and financial magnate who knew personally Baron de Broqueville, the Belgian Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The emissary went to Paris by way of Switzerland and informed the Belgian Prime Minister that he was the bearer of information of paramount importance in view of Belgium's future, and asked for an interview. Baron de Broqueville complied, and the meeting took place in the Hotel Ritz, Paris. The Belgian there explained that he was commissioned by one of the highest German officials of occupied Belgium to ask Belgium to prepare for peace. This official was Baron von Lancken. The procedure was to send semi-official Belgian and French delegates to Bern, who should lay down the basis of a "lasting peace" in friendly discussion with German delegates.

The following "preliminary conditions" were presented:—

- (1) Complete restoration of Belgium.
- (2) Recognition of Belgium's independence.
- (3) Indemnity for war expenses and reparation of war destructions according to the Belgian common law.
- (4) Convocation of the peace conference in Brussels under the presidency of King Albert.

Baron de Broqueville rejected this attempt to separate the Allies.

La Métropole understands that M. Briand was also made acquainted with this proposal.

Baron von Lancken, who before the war was Counselor of the German Embassy in Paris, is head of the Political Department of the German Administration at Brussels.

THE BEST SAUCE!

"There is no sauce like appetite," says an old proverb, and the statement is altogether true. With a keen appetite you can relish the plainest food, while without it the daintiest morsel fails to tempt you. Loss of appetite is a sure sign that something is wrong with the digestive system, and if you are wise you will not ignore that or any other danger sign.

Now, digestion is the prime function of life—physiologically speaking—the process by which the food you eat is ultimately converted into blood, brain, and muscle; the process, in short, by which you exist, and compared to which all else is unimportant, even trivial. It is a long and complex process, and any failure in any part of it must of necessity be injurious to health. Digestion sums up and includes every function of the body, and if you allow your digestion—your stomach, liver, and bowels—to get out of order, your whole system will surely suffer.

Indigestion is therefore the fundamental ailment of the human race, the disease from which—barring accidents—nearly all other disorders spring. This is a strong assertion, but it is true, and for this reason: Good food, when perfectly digested, becomes pure, rich blood, in which the germs of disease cannot live; your body being thus fully nourished, every organ does the work which Nature intended it to do; there is vitality, reserve force, strength to resist, and disease cannot get hold of your system.

On the other hand, food (however good it may be) imperfectly digested cannot make pure blood, because it cannot yield its nourishment; your system is starved, every organ of your body right up to the brain suffers for want of sustenance; you become weak, nervous, anemic; while impurities, due to decomposition of the undigested mass in stomach and bowels, are drawn into your blood to poison your whole system and prepare the way for dangerous diseases.

It will thus be seen how all-important is this matter of digestion, affecting, as it does, every other function of the body, and how earnestly you should strive to keep it active. It is the foundation of your physical, bodily well-being, for without a sound digestion, good health is utterly, hopelessly impossible.

On the slightest indication of digestive weakness take Mother Seigel's Syrup. Don't hesitate or delay about it. It tones and invigorates the stomach, liver and bowels, cleanses the blood and promotes perfect assimilation, and therefore perfect health. When you notice the early symptoms of indigestion—furred tongue, wind, headache, fulness, take Mother Seigel's Syrup; do not wait for the more serious effects, and you will be saved months, perhaps years, of suffering.

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a flash of time, and whose point of view on almost every conceivable subject under heaven is our own!

These sentiments are, I hope, mutual. The Americans did not know what our Armies were, nor what they had done or were doing. Many of them know now. They witness under fire our grand attacks and our raids. They observe with astonishment the terrific powers of our modern artillery and the glorious activities of our splendid airmen. They see the spirit, the discipline, and the emulation of our infantry, and they are profoundly impressed by them. I hope that the pride which we feel, without venturing to express it, in the Americans is a little reciprocated by them. I can only say that every American soldier who has told me of his experiences on the British front has spoken with enthusiasm and admiration of our men, and that an entire new feeling, the consequences of which may be immense, is growing up between the two kindred nations in arms.

3 DAYS MORE

To-day, To-morrow, Monday.

December						
Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
						X
X	X	X	X	X	X	X
X	X	X	X	X	X	X
X	X	X	X	X	X	X
X	X	X	X	X	X	29
30	31					



MONDAY, Dec. 31
Last Day
of the Low Price

The Introductory Offer of THE NEW ATLAS AND COMMERCIAL GAZETTEER OF CHINA at the special advance-sale price ends on Monday night.

During these three days you have the chance to subscribe for a copy of this invaluable and exclusive work at the lowest price at which we shall ever offer it.

The introductory offer was to be operative only while the book was in process of manufacture. The work is now completed and the first shipment of the ATLAS AND GAZETTEER will be made from Shanghai this week. Delivery to local subscribers will be made as soon as possible.

The work being issued, the Introductory Offer must be withdrawn; the higher price becomes effective automatically on January 1.

Orders posted in envelopes that bear a post-mark not later than December 31 will be filled at the low price, provided there are books enough left to supply all who will subscribe at the last hour.

Those who delay their orders until after the New Year will not only have to pay the higher price but run the risk of not being in time to get their GAZETTEER at all, even at the higher price, for only a limited number of copies were printed.

DO NOT MISS THIS LAST OPPORTUNITY. Send your order TO-DAY while you have assurance of getting your GAZETTEER at the lowest price at which we shall ever offer it. To-morrow or Monday may be too late—it all depends on how many orders are received at Shanghai to-day.

Use the Order Form Below.

Date
Not available if dated later than Dec. 31, 1917.

NAME CHINA DAILY NEWS,
Shanghai.

Please send me one copy of The New Atlas and Commercial Gazetteer of China, for which I enclose draft or cheque for Shanghai Tels 90 in full payment.

Name
Address

H.K.F. 2/12

If dated after December 31 the subscriber should remit Tls. 110, the regular publication price.

Treat your hair kindly

You desire fine, beautiful hair. Therefore you must treat it kindly—unharmful, preserve its care for it by regularly using

**ROWLAND'S
MACASSAR
OIL**

"For Your Hair"

This product has been used for over 120 years—it has proved its value and time worth. Do not let any cheap imitations or your hair go to the winds. Rowland's Macassar Oil is the only hair oil that will keep your hair soft and healthy. It is sold in all the leading hairdressing salons, and in all the big department stores.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

S.S. "COLOMBIA,"
FROM SAN FRANCISCO, HONOLULU
JAPAN PORTS, SHANGHAI
AND MANILA

THE above-mentioned vessel having arrived from the above ports, Consignees of Cargo are hereby informed that their cargo is being landed at their risk into the Hazardous and/or extra Hazardous Godowns of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Ltd., Kowloon, and stored at Consignees' risk.

Consignees of Cargo are hereby notified that they must produce an Import Permit signed by the Superintendent of Imports and Exports, Hongkong, before Bills of Lading can be countersigned.

All broken, chafed and damaged goods are to be left in the Godowns where they will be examined on SATURDAY, 29th Dec. at 10 A.M.

All Claims must be presented within a month of the Steamer's arrival here, after which they cannot be recognized.

No Claims will be admitted after the Goods have left the Godowns and all Goods remaining undelivered after 21st Dec. will be subject to re-shipment.

No Fire Insurance whatever will be effected. Consignees are requested to send in their Bills of Lading for countersignature immediately.

PACIFIC MAIL S.S. CO.
J. ORAM SHEPPARD,
Acting Agent.
Hongkong, 24th December, 1917. [124]

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

FROM SAN FRANCISCO AND KOBE.

THE Steamship

"COSTA RUCA,"

Captain O.A. Lillied, having arrived from the above ports, Consignees of Cargo are hereby informed that their Goods are being landed at their risk into the Godowns of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Limited, Kowloon, and stored at Consignees' risk and expense.

Optional Goods will be carried on unless instructions are given to the contrary before Noon, 27th instant.

All broken, chafed, and damaged Goods are to be left in the Godowns, where they will be examined on MONDAY, 31st Dec. at 10 A.M.

All Claims must be presented within a month of the Steamer's arrival here, after which they cannot be recognized.

No Claims will be admitted after the Goods have left the Godowns and all Goods remaining undelivered after 21st Dec. will be subject to re-shipment.

No Fire Insurance will be effected. Bills of Lading will be countersigned by the Superintendent of Imports and Exports, Hongkong, before Bills of Lading can be countersigned.

No. 12, Leadenhall Street, London, E.C.3.
SHEWAN TOMES & Co.,
General Agents.
Hongkong, 26th December, 1917. [125]

POST OFFICE NOTICE.

LOCAL AND REGULAR MAILS OUTWARD.

For	On Week-Days	On Sundays & Holidays
Tai O	10.00 A.M.	—
Tai Po	10.00 A.M.	9.30 A.M.
Cheung Chow	7.30 A.M. 1.30 P.M. 4.00 P.M.	—
Elstankok, Shatin and Sheungshui Aberdeen, Antau Ping Shan, Sai Kung, Santin, Stanley	4.30 P.M.	—
Canton, Samahui and Wuchow	7.30 A.M. 1.30 P.M. 4.00 P.M. (Letters 6.00 P.M.)	9.00 P.M.
Macao	7.15 A.M. 1.30 P.M. 4.00 P.M.	9.00 A.M.
Kongmoon	Except Saturdays 8.00 P.M.	9.00 P.M.
Naxtar and Sammel	10.00 A.M.	9.00 A.M.
Shamchun	4.00 P.M.	—

From Sheungwan Western Branch P.O.

For	On Week-Days	On Sundays	On Holidays
Macao	7.30 A.M. 1.30 P.M. 4.00 P.M.	8.30 A.M.	7.30 A.M. 1.30 P.M. 4.00 P.M.
Canton	7.30 A.M. 1.30 P.M. 4.00 P.M.	9.30 P.M.	9.30 P.M.
Tai Ping Tang	9.30 P.M.	9.30 P.M.	9.30 P.M.
Shak Ki	9.30 P.M.	9.30 P.M.	9.30 P.M.
Kongmoon	6.00 P.M.	6.00 P.M.	6.00 P.M.
Kumchuk	6.00 P.M.	6.00 P.M.	6.00 P.M.
Kaukang	6.00 P.M.	6.00 P.M.	6.00 P.M.

SHARE LIST—QUOTATIONS.

HONGKONG, 28TH DECEMBER, 1917.

STOCKS.	PAID UP VALU.	OFFICIAL QUOTATION 10.30 A.M.	CLOSING QUOTATION.	LAST DIVIDEND.
BANKS.				
Hongkong and Shanghai	\$135	\$600, sellers	22 3/4 int. n/c 1917	
INSURANCE.				
Canton	\$50	\$300, sellers	\$25 for 1915	
China Fire	\$30	\$12 1/2, buy.	\$9 for 1915	
Hongkong Fire	\$40	\$310	\$27 for 1915	
Nova China	\$5	T. 115, buy.	\$27 for 1915	
Union	\$100	\$35, buyers	\$20 for 1915	
Yangtze	\$50	\$305	\$21 for 1915	
SHIPPING.				
Douglas S.S. Co.	\$50	\$77, sellers	\$10 for year ending 30/3/17	
Canton Steamboats	\$15	\$18, sellers	\$1.25 for 1916	
Indo-China Ref.	\$5	\$34, buyers	\$1 for 1916	
Do. Def.	\$5	\$135, buyers	\$0.75 for 1916	
Star Ferry Co.	\$10	\$184/185, buy.	\$2.10 for year ending 30/4/17	
REVENUE.				
China Sugars	\$100	\$93, buyers	\$12 for 1916	
Malacca Sugars	\$50	\$36, sellers	\$5 Pa. for 1916	
DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.				
Kowloon Wharf Co.	\$50	\$98, s. & b.	\$4 and bonus of \$2 for 1916	
H. and W. Dock Co.	\$50	\$125, s. & b.	\$2 1/2 int. account 1917	
Shanghai Docks	Fls. 100	T. 71, sel.	Fls. 7 1/2 for year ending 30/4/16	
LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.				
Central Estates	\$100	\$90, buyers	\$7 for 1916	
Hongkong Hotels	\$50	\$90, buyers	\$3 for year	
Hongkong Lands	\$100	\$90, buyers	\$3 int. account 1917	
Hongkong Land Reclamation	\$75	\$110	\$5.25 for 1915	
Hampshire Estates	\$100	\$55, buyers	\$0 cents for 1916	
Kowloon Lands	\$50	\$30	\$2 for 1916	
West Point	\$50	\$81	\$3 int. account 1917	
CR.				
Land's	\$10	Ts. 15	T. 1 for year ending 31/10/16	
Shells	\$1	112/-, buy.	2/- int. account 1917	
Ural Caspians	\$1	80/-	1/- for 1915/16	
MINING.				
Kailans	\$1	40/-, sellers	1/- int. acct. year ending 30/3/17	
Rauks	\$1	\$21, buyers	None since 1910	
Trough	\$1	31/3	4/- int. account 1916	
QUARTERS MILLS.				
Ewo	Fls. 50	T. 178 1/2, buy.	T. 20 for year ending 31/10/17	
Kang Yik	Fls. 10	T. 18 1/2, buy.	T. 0.80 for year ending 30/11/16	
Oriental C. S. Co. Ltd.	Fls. 50	T. 40, buy.	Fls. 6 for 1913	
Shanghai	Fls. 50	T. 121, buy.	Fls. 6 for year ending 30/8/17	
Yangtzeppoo	Fls. 5	T. 7.40, buy.	Nil for 1915	
MISCELLANEOUS.				
China Borneo	\$12	\$7, buyers	60 cents for 1916	
China Lights	\$5	\$34, buyers	None since 1915	
China Provident	\$10	\$7 1/2, buyers	70 cents for 1915	
Dairy Farms	\$5	\$28, buyers	\$2 for year ending 31/10/17	
Green Island Cement	\$7 1/2	\$7.40, sales	80 cents for 1916	
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$48, buyers	\$3 for year ending 30/11/16	
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$150, buyers	\$2 int. account 1917	
Hongkong Ropes	\$10	\$29 1/2, s. & b.	\$1 int. account 1917	
Hongkong Steels	\$10	\$10	\$1 for year ending 31/5/17	
Hongkong Trams	\$1	\$6, buyers	9% int. account 1917	
Peak Tram Old	\$10	\$24, sellers	7% for year ending 30/3/17	
Do. New	\$1	\$6.40, sellers	25 cents for year ending 31/5/17	
Steam Laundry	\$5	\$3, buyers	\$1.25 for 1916	
Union Waterboats	\$7	\$15	70 cents for 1916	
Watson & Co.	\$10	\$5.60, sellers	None since 1914	
Wm. Powell, Limited	\$7	\$8 1/2, sellers		

RUBBER (Singapore Currency).	PAID UP VALU.	YEAR ENDS.	LATEST QUOTATION.	DIVIDEND FOR LAST YEAR.	INT. DIV. TO DATE.
Alor Gajah	\$1	Sept.	\$4.25	35 p. c.	40 p. c.
Ayer Panas	\$1	Jan.	\$11.00	35 p. c.	10 p. c.
Glensay	\$1	Oct.	\$2.45	35 p. c.	10 p. c.
Kedah	\$1	April	\$4.00	35 p. c.	10 p. c.
Kempas	\$1	June	\$3.70	40 p. c.	10 p. c.
Malaka Pinda	\$1	Aug.	\$2.75	33 p. c.	—
Malakoff	\$1	Dec.	\$4.25	30 p. c.	15 p. c.
New Sorendab	\$1	Dec.	\$4.50	25 p. c.	10 p. c.
Sandjoroff	\$1	Jan.	\$4.50	20 p. c.	13 p. c.
Tepah	\$10	Dec.	\$21.00	35 p. c.	10 p. c.
Plantation Rubber in London			2 1/4		

VERNON & SMYTH, Share Brokers.

COMMERCIAL CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

December 28th	
ON LONDON —	
Telegraphic Transfer	57 1/2
Bank Bill, on demand	57 1/2
Bank Bill, at 30 days' sight	57 1/2
Bank Bill, at 4 months' sight	57 1/2
Credit, at 4 months' sight	57 1/2
Documentary Bill 4 months' sight	57 1/2
ON PARIS —	
Bank Bill, on demand	408 1/2
Credit, at 4 months' sight	424
ON NEW YORK —	
Bank Bill, on demand	7 1/2
Credit, at 60 days' sight	7 1/2
ON BOMBAY —	
Telegraphic Transfer	—
Bank Bill, on demand	—
ON CALCUTTA —	
Telegraphic Transfer	—
Bank Bill, on demand	—
ON SHANGHAI —	
Bank Bill, at sight	—
Private, 30 days' sight	—
ON YOKOHAMA — On demand	157 1/2
ON MANILA — On demand	157 1/2
ON SINGAPORE — On demand	157 1/2
ON BATAVIA — On demand	157 1/2
ON HONGKONG — On demand	157 1/2
ON SAIGON — On demand	157 1/2
ON BANGKOK — On demand	157 1/2
SOVEREIGN Bank's Buyer Rate	\$ 6.50 m.
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per 'oz	\$44.00
BAR SILVER per oz	\$32 1/2

SUBSIDIARY COINS	per cent.
Hongkong ... 20 cents, place	\$0.00 Premium
Hongkong ... 10	\$0.12 Discount
Canton ... 20	\$0.40
Canton ... 10	\$0.80

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

TO-MORROW.
9.15 p.m.—Fantastic Stars at the Victoria Theatre.

Tuesday, 1st Jan.—
New Year Day—Public Holiday.
3 p.m.—Our Day—Fair at the Kowloon Cricket Club, in aid of War Charities.

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